

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 17, 20 and 26-29 have been canceled. Thus, claims 15, 16, 18 and 30-36 are pending. For reasons stated below, which do not raise new issues, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)

In the FINAL Office Action dated October 30, 2008, claims 1-3 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over JP 2000-087158.

Claims 1-3, 17 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to depend from independent claim 30, and claim 18 has been amended to depend from independent claim 33. No new issues have been raised.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the above stated rejection is now moot and should be removed.

II. Claim Rejections – Double Patenting

In the FINAL Office Action dated October 30, 2008, claims 1-3, 15, 18, 20 and 29-36 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of co-pending application No 10/549,440.

A Terminal Disclaimer is being filed with respect to co-pending application No. 10/549,440. No new issue has been raised. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and removal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and Terminal Disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim rejections have been overcome and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, a favorable action on the merits is therefore requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment for entering this Amendment to our deposit account no. 08-3040.

Respectfully submitted,
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